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## MINNESOTA

# PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

## LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

VOLUME 3. No. 9.

ST. PAUL, MARCH, 1912.

QUARTERLY.

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MARTHA WILSON, *Library Visitor.*

### LIBRARY FINANCES.

In the discussion of better financial support for public libraries at the Minnetonka meeting of the Minnesota Library Association it was evident that while all agreed that lack of funds was the greatest hindrance to library development, but little effort had been made to secure more adequate support. Librarians and trustees have struggled bravely to make ends meet on a small income, but have not yet realized that their first duty to the library might be to secure an increased income. "Until the library is recognized as an integral part of the municipality, and its proper support established as definitely as that of the streets, police department, fire protection, schools, etc., it will be a struggling institution."

While the establishment of Carnegie libraries has usually increased the appropriations for maintenance, unfortunately city councils in many instances have fixed the limit of taxation at the amount required to meet the conditions of the Carnegie gift, and with the increased expenditure which the building entails, and the growing demands of the work, this sum has proved insufficient.

Much attention is now being given to this

fundamental problem in library administration. One session of the recent meeting of the League of Library Commissions in Chicago was devoted to a discussion of library budgets for small libraries; comparative tables of taxation for library purposes in larger cities have been published, and trustees and librarians are beginning to realize their responsibility in this matter. The Wisconsin Library Bulletin, September-October, 1910, contained many practical suggestions as to methods of getting appropriations and acknowledgments are due the Wisconsin Free Library Commission for permission to use some of the material there published.

In some instances city charters have fixed a limit to the percent of taxation allowed for the library far below that authorized by the general library law.

One library in Minnesota, which is greatly in need of an increased revenue to meet the growing demands of its work, is hampered in this way. Its appropriation can only be increased by an amendment to the city charter, which would be practically impossible to secure.

Many municipalities are considering the adoption of new charters and library boards should take upon themselves the responsibility of seeing that proper consideration is given to the needs of the library and above all that no unreasonable restrictions are placed upon its future growth, by fixing the limit of its income.

The first and most important step in securing a larger appropriation is to present to the council a carefully itemized budget of expenses for the coming year, compared with expenditures for the past year, stating

as definitely as possible what can be accomplished with increased appropriation: For example, Increase book purchase; Improve the service, by extending the hours of opening, raising salaries to a living wage, providing for assistants and substitutes; Enlarge work for schools; Extend work in any needed direction.

A simple form for such a budget is the following:

**Quarters—**

Rent.  
Heat.  
Light.  
Furniture.  
Repairs and improvements.  
Janitor service.  
Insurance.

**Books, etc.—**

Books.  
Periodicals.  
Binding.

**Service—**

Librarian's salary.  
Assistants and substitutes.

**Miscellaneous—**

Stationery and supplies.  
Postage, express, freight, etc.  
Printing.

Furthermore, tables showing that the library appropriation has not grown with the city nor with the appropriation for schools and other departments are suggested, and lastly a table showing the small percent of taxation for the library in proportion to that for other purposes. The following table printed in the newspapers at St. James will, it is hoped, prove effective in carrying the vote for a library tax:

	1909	1910	1911
Total assessed valuation .....	\$591,575	\$586,608	\$583,617
State revenue .....	1.57 mills	1.47	2.65
State school .....	1.23	1.23	1.23
Local mill .....	1.00	1.00	1.00
Special school .....	24.8	25.00	25.00
County revenue .....	2.8	2.5	2.6
County bridge .....		.8	
County poor .....	.7	.7	.67
County bond .....	.3		
County road .....	1.4		.8
County contingent..			.05
City revenue .....	8.5	8.6	5.00
City bond .....		8.6	8.6
	42.3 mills	49.9	47.6

It was pointed out that for every \$47 paid in taxes, \$1 would be paid for the library, while for those who only own personal property the tax would be only a few cents. The

school tax is 25 mills and the library can be maintained for one twenty-fifth the cost of the schools.

By the adoption of some of the methods suggested above increased appropriations have been secured within the past year at Mankato, Cloquet, Little Falls and Hibbing and every library board in the state is urged to give careful consideration to the following questions:

1. Is the appropriation adequate?
2. Is it a reasonable sum for the city to spend for the library?
3. If inadequate, what steps should be taken to increase the amount?
4. Are the funds being apportioned to the best possible advantage?

The financial responsibility of the librarian is forcibly set forth, in an article by Ethel F. McCollough in the Wisconsin Library Bulletin already mentioned. She maintains that since the librarian is the one person in possession of all the facts concerning the needs of the institution which she is serving, it is a part of her business to assume a share of the financial burden. In order to do this "she must prove her ability to give her library a business administration—she must understand fully all of the financial operations of the library. Recommendations as to expenditures must be carefully weighed before they are presented to the trustees. Exact estimates as to cost should be quoted when possible. All library records must be kept absolutely up to date. A librarian who can supply information concerning the work of the library at a moment's notice will always command the respect of her board.

When she has educated her board and her community to respect her opinion and advice in these things, the chances are that she will be asked for expert advice in making up the annual budget." It is certainly the right of every librarian to know the financial condition of the library at all times, as otherwise it is impossible to make intelligent recommendations to her board as to needed expenditures for books, supplies or new undertakings.

Furthermore, the librarian, as a city official must acquaint herself with the work of the other departments, make friends of the mayor and members of the council, and most important of all "she must subjugate the humble taxpayer. For unless he be willing to bear his share of the adequate appropriation, all of her hopes are as nothing. To

him she must demonstrate that the library is a paying investment. To do this she must make it useful to all kinds of people. The man who comes to her for help, inspiration or amusement must not leave her desk unsatisfied."

Good business methods are essential in the management of the library as well as in every other department of city government. It is by the service rendered to the community that the library is judged and a real appreciation of the value of this service on the part of citizens should result in adequate support.

#### COUNTY LIBRARIES.

One of the most difficult problems of library extension is that of making free books accessible to rural communities, which are located too far from library centers to have easy access to their resources, and are too small to maintain local libraries successfully. While statistics show a large increase in the total number of books in public libraries in proportion to the entire population, a little analysis of these statistics will show that there are many thousands of people who are absolutely without library privileges.

For example, a rough estimate of population in our own state having access to public libraries is as follows:

Total population .....	2,075,708
Population of cities and villages	
with libraries .....	913,477
Country people with access to city	
libraries (in county systems)...	75,000
Population served by traveling li-	
braries .....	78,658
Total population with library privi-	
leges .....	1,067,135
Total population without library	
privileges .....	1,008,573

While the state traveling library systems have afforded a partial solution of the problem, no state system has yet been developed which is comprehensive and extensive enough to serve every community in the state not reached by local libraries. The county library plan promises to be the most satisfactory solution of the problem, offering the most efficient service with the greatest economy in expenditure. Its advantages over the state system are apparent, chiefly because of the more direct communication between the library and its

patrons. The librarian of a county library visits the territory which her library serves and acquires an intimate knowledge of the various needs of each community, which is impossible to secure in the larger system, operated at long distance, where regular visits to all stations are out of the question. More elasticity in selection of books to meet special demands is also possible. Furthermore, the county library may become a potent factor in bringing town and country into closer relationship.

A county library is one which includes in its service all residents of a county, and for whose support the entire county pays taxes. It may be established by contract between the county commissioners and some existing library, or by levying a uniform tax on the county. County libraries have been successfully conducted in a number of states under various laws.

The Washington Co. Free Library at Hagerstown, Md., is a unique example of a successful county library, serving an area of 500 square miles with deposit stations located in creameries, country stores, etc., and a book wagon which not only distributes the books to deposit stations but takes them direct to the reader.

A very successful county library has been maintained at Portland, Oregon, for the last eight years by means of a tax of 1-5 of a mill levied on the entire county. Its organization includes the central library, with four branches in the city, class-room libraries in the public schools, traveling libraries in engine houses, etc., branch reading rooms in the suburbs and several small towns, with weekly deliveries of books from the central library, and a permanent deposit of from 500 to 1000 books. In the country districts there are 16 deposit stations, in post-office, general store, farmhouse, or grange hall, and juvenile libraries are placed in each country school.

Perhaps the most comprehensive system of county libraries is that recently developed in California, where in a little over a year under the operation of a new law, \$70,000 was appropriated by different counties, 114 branches were established, and over 12,000 people were reading county books.

Wisconsin has a system of county traveling libraries, while Indiana and Iowa have developed the township extension plan with great success.

The law in Minnesota was passed in 1905,

and authorizes library boards "to contract with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the library is situated, or of adjacent counties, or with the village trustees or governing body of any neighboring town, city or village, to loan the books of said library, either singly or in traveling libraries, to the residents of said county, town, city or village, upon such terms as shall be agreed upon in such contract. All such boards or officers are hereby empowered to make contracts for such purposes, and to pay the consideration agreed upon out of the county, town or village treasury."

The following table gives a summary of county libraries in Minnesota. The figures are incomplete as all do not keep a separate record of borrowers and circulation outside the city. The system was just established at Rochester in January, 1912, but already arrangements have been made to locate ten traveling libraries throughout the county. Appropriations have also recently been made to the libraries at Wayzata and White Bear on condition that these libraries shall extend their service to the country in their immediate vicinity.

All libraries having county aid, with the exception of Anoka, have sent out traveling libraries, some of them having their own collections, while others have drawn upon the state traveling library for this purpose. In nearly all instances, extension of time is given on books loaned to country borrowers, books may be renewed by telephone, at Litchfield there is no limit to the number of books each borrower may take, and in Stevens Co. teachers in districts not maintaining libraries may draw 10 to 20 books at a time.

Reports show that the county commissioners are entirely satisfied with the working of the system, as evidenced by the ready renewal of the appropriation at Morris upon presentation of the year's report, and the increase of the appropriation in Lake Co. from \$300 to \$500.

In consideration of the large rural population of Minnesota, it is evident that adequate library service can only be given to rural communities by co-operation with library centers, and the general adoption of the plan in counties which have well-organized central libraries is recommended.

COUNTY	LIBRARY	Year Estab.	Appropriation 1911	Stations outside city	No. Trav. Libs. Loaned	Books sent out in Trav. Libs.	Borrowers outside city	Circulation outside city
Steele	Owatonna	1904	\$500	11			939	4907
Washington	Stillwater	1904	400	9	22	900	587	5155
Anoka	Anoka	1905	250	—			240	
Meeker	Litchfield	1906	300	12	12	400	160	690
Itasca	Grand Rapids	1908	250	44	44	1100		
Stevens	Morris	1910	500	10	24	1636	429	
Lake	Two Harbors	1911	300	10	10	245	211	1122 (trav. lib. only)
Olmsted	Rochester	1912	300	10	Established Jan.	1912.		
Hennepin	Wayzata	1912	500			"		
Ramsey	White Bear	1912	300			"		

#### THE A. L. A. CONFERENCE.

Ottawa, Canada, will in all probability be the meeting place for the 1912 conference of the A. L. A., and the date will probably be the last week in June. The Chateau Laurier, the new hotel, on the completion of which depends the meeting in Ottawa, is making satisfactory progress and the authorities have given the officers of the Association every

possible assurance that it will be ready in time. The Saguenay River seems to be the unanimous choice for a post-conference trip, and a three or four days journey by special chartered steamer to the head of navigation, a day at Montreal and another at Quebec, with shorter stops at other points of interest, will undoubtedly be arranged. The secretary and the travel committee are for-

tunate to have the co-operation of Mr. C. H. Gould, who, by virtue of his location at Montreal and his successful conduct of a similar outing following the Montreal conference of 1900, is in a peculiarly fortunate position to render exceedingly valuable service. More extended plans and detailed information may be looked for in the March A. L. A. Bulletin.

It has been suggested that Minnesota librarians who plan to attend the conference might enjoy going by way of the Great Lakes from Duluth. Those who are interested in this plan are asked to communicate with Miss Frances Earhart, Public Library, Duluth.

#### **SUMMER LIBRARY SCHOOL.**

The 13th annual session of the Summer School for Library Training will be held at the State University, June 17-July 26, 1912, in connection with the University Summer School.

The usual elementary course will be offered with the members of the Commission staff as chief instructors. The course includes instruction in cataloging, classification, shelf list and accessioning, with lectures and practical work in book-selection and buying, reference work, periodicals and binding, and administration.

Special lectures will be given by members of the Library Commission, representative Minnesota librarians and visiting library workers from outside the state. The usual visits to libraries in the Twin Cities and their immediate vicinity will be an interesting feature of the program.

The course is open only to those holding library positions or under definite appointments to such positions and to teachers in charge of school libraries. There is no tuition fee for students holding positions in Minnesota, but a registration fee of \$10 is paid by those from other states.

An announcement giving further information as to instructors, board and outline of program will be issued about May 1st, but all librarians who are considering attendance at the school are asked to correspond with the Secretary of the Commission without delay.

#### **ROUND TABLE MEETINGS.**

Arrangements are being made for holding a number of library round table meetings during the spring months. As an effort is

now being made to promote co-operation between school and public libraries throughout the state, the meetings of the District Educational Associations afford excellent opportunities to bring together librarians from both school and public libraries for informal discussions of problems of mutual interest. A meeting was called at Bemidji during the meeting of the North Central Teachers' Association, Feb. 9-10, but as only three libraries were represented—Bemidji, Park Rapids and International Falls, no formal sessions were held. The Secretary of the Commission was present and met the librarians for an informal discussion of problems, and the address by President Vincent on Efficiency in education was full of inspiration to librarians as well as to teachers. A meeting will be held in Duluth March 14-15 at the same time as the meeting of the North Eastern Minnesota Educational Association. A session on Thursday afternoon will be devoted to public library problems including library budgets, business methods and exchange of foreign books, and Friday morning librarians from school and public libraries will discuss methods for school libraries and co-operation between school and public libraries in purchase of books, reference work and guiding pupils reading. The program is so arranged that it does not conflict with the sessions of the Teachers' Association, which offer many attractions of special interest to librarians. A similar meeting will be held at St. Cloud, March 21-23.

In previous years library round tables have frequently been held in connection with the District meetings of Women's Clubs, and it is probable that such meetings will be arranged this year at those places which are not on the schedule for University Week. The club meetings are announced for Austin, April 30, Le Sueur Center, Jackson, Marshall, Fergus Falls and Duluth some time in May.

#### **UNIVERSITY WEEK.**

A new plan of University extension will be inaugurated in Minnesota next June according to President Vincent's idea of carrying the University to the people.

The schedule provides for a week's program in 24 small cities of the state, with popular applied education along every line through the medium of a staff of seventy-

five lecturers, educators, demonstrators and entertainers. In order to reach the largest number of people in the most economical way circuits will be arranged so that "weeks" will be conducted simultaneously in six towns which are in easy communication with each other.

There will be a permanent staff of lecturers and teachers for each town while certain of the popular features will be transferred from one town to another. The program will be designed to best fit the needs of the local community and to conform to the widely varying interests of different localities. Mining and forestry will be emphasized in the northern section, while agriculture and kindred subjects will receive special attention in other parts of the state. Every evening there will be a public entertainment, which will be produced once in each town. These will include an illustrated lecture on "How Minnesota educates her people;" a Minnesota pageant, with national scenes and a tableau in which local school children will participate; scientific lectures on subjects of popular interest such as color photography or the gyroscope car; an evening of grand opera, produced by means of a lecture, moving pictures and phonograph; a Shakespearean comedy by the University Dramatic Club and a concert by the University Glee Club with a chorus organized in each community.

The Library Commission has been asked to participate and will arrange an exhibit in each town, showing the traveling libraries and various phases of library work, and will also provide a speaker to make the circuit of towns each week.

Much of the success of this plan will depend on the co-operation of the local libraries, and the Commission is relying on their assistance, knowing that they will welcome this admirable opportunity to emphasize the important place the library should occupy as an educational and social center in each community. The tentative schedule of towns is as follows:

- 1st week—Waseca, Owatonna, Albert Lea, Spring Valley, Rochester.
- 2nd week—St. James, Windom, Worthington, Pipestone, Marshall and Willmar.
- 3rd week—Thief River Falls, Crookston, Bemidji, Detroit, Fergus Falls, Moorhead.
- 4th week—Hibbing, Eveleth, Virginia, Ely, Cloquet, Grand Rapids.

## THE STATE ART SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA.

BY MAURICE IRWIN FLAGG,  
Director of the State Art Society of Minnesota; Director  
of the Handicraft Guild School of Design,  
Handicraft and Normal Art.

Minnesota is one, of a very few states in the Union, that has appropriated by legislature money for the promotion of the artistic work of the state. This has a very significant and important meaning. Our educators have realized that Art has a very tangible relation to our present day needs. The importance of the subject is evidenced by the fact that the public schools in nearly every city and town in the United States have now a supervisor of drawing and art. These teachers are trained, they are specialists, and their duty is not to teach the students to "draw and paint a little," but to train their creative faculties to the point of individual expression and appreciation.

Fifteen years ago conditions were different. Art was almost a fad or fancy for the few who had sufficient time to devote to a pleasing pastime. Today the subject is of paramount importance, and has a definite relation not only to the public schools, libraries, and art museums, but to the general welfare of the entire county, state and country at large.

It is at this point and for just this work that the State Art Society of Minnesota has been created. To encourage, assist, promote and co-operate in every way possible toward the artistic educational welfare of Minnesota is the aim of the society. This does not mean that the society is ready to assist by contributory advice only; it is actually doing things and hopes to reach every city and town in the state, and to supply, if possible, the artistic needs of that community.

Already the society is circulating through the public schools a very excellent series of colored prints with lecture attached.

It also can supply exhibits of handicraft and art. In the near future it is planned to have a large number of lantern slides with lectures on topics ranging from Art in the Home, to discussions of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture. A spacious gallery in the Old Capitol in St. Paul houses many fine reproductions of the Old Masters, Architecture, and Design. These can be arranged for exhibition with small cost.

The society plans to become the "clear-

ing house" for the artistic welfare of the state. It is promoting the Handicrafts of the state, and intends to carry on the work by encouraging the development of the state resources along artistic lines.

The society hopes to becomes a source for all desired information on art and the many problems connected with it in our educational curriculum. If it cannot supply immediate demands it will assist as far as possible in securing them. Lectures and lantern slides can be arranged for through the society at a very reasonable fee.

Yearly, the society sends a large exhibition of art to two or more cities in the state. The exhibit includes not only work by Minnesota craftsmen and artists, but exhibits of painting, sculpture, the applied and industrial arts from without the state. That is a part of the society's duties as a foster-parent of art in the state. This exhibit can be had at a very small cost by a city or town that makes early application and furnishes adequate accommodations. This year St. Paul, Duluth, Stillwater, and Anoka are to see the exhibit.

The libraries can be of utmost assistance in carrying on this work. Statistics show that there is hardly an institution in the country doing more effective work along these lines than the Public Library. The Minnesota State Art Society hopes to supplement the good work, and by co-operation in other ways there is little doubt as to the outcome and results.

The society invites inquiries on problems of art by any library, school, or person interested in the work, and it will gladly give without cost all that is within its power.

#### EXHIBITS.

**American Landscape Painters.** A collection of twenty-four fine reproductions of the work of representative American landscape painters has been purchased by the Commission. Brief biographies of each artist accompany the pictures. These are being sent first to libraries in towns where clubs are studying American art, but will be available for all libraries in the state on payment of transportation one way. They make a very attractive exhibit and librarians are asked to send application at once, so that the circuit may be arranged advantageously.

**Forestry Photographs.** An interesting col-

lection of photographs showing forestry problems throughout the United States has been secured from the United States Bureau of Forestry. Mr. W. T. Cox, the Minnesota State Forester, has supplemented this collection with a number of fine Minnesota views, so that the exhibit is valuable both from an educational and artistic standpoint. A descriptive paragraph explains each picture. Every library in the state should arrange to have this exhibit.

**Characters from Dickens.** A portfolio of twenty gravures from drawings by F. G. Lewin will make interesting material for a Dickens Centenary bulletin, and these excellent sketches of the favorite Dickens characters ought to arouse interest in his books. Loaned on receipt of 10 cents for postage.

**Silk Manufacture.** A cabinet, showing steps in silk culture from the silk worm moth, through the various stages of the cocoons to the skein of raw silk and the finished floss and spool silk has been obtained from Belding Bros. This exhibit with an illustrated chart and descriptive pamphlet will be loaned to any library upon payment of transportation one way.

Other exhibits owned by the Commission, which have already been described in Library Notes and News are: British Historical pictures (twelve colored prints illustrating scenes in English history), United States Navy (twenty-four colored prints of the old battleships), Venice today, (forty sketches in color and black and white by F. Hopkinson Smith).

#### AIDS FOR LIBRARIANS.

**A. L. A. Catalog, 1904-1911.** The supplement to the A. L. A. Catalog of 1904 will soon be ready and every library should have a copy of this indispensable aid in book selection. It is an annotated list of about 3,000 of the best books published since the A. L. A. catalog was printed, selected through votes of librarians and various specialists in all parts of the country and edited by Elva L. Bascom, editor of the A. L. A. Booklist. Books are arranged by classes, with author, title and subject indexes. Children's books are listed separately.

This book can be secured from the A. L. A. Publishing Board, 78 East Washington St., Chicago, Ill. Order should be sent immediately in order to obtain the reduced

price. Advance subscription, \$1.00 (postpaid \$1.20); after publication, \$1.50.

**Minnesota Day Bulletin.** The legislature of 1911 authorized the Supt. of Public Instruction to designate a "Minnesota Day," to be observed in all of the public schools for the purpose of bringing to the children a wider knowledge of our state and increased loyalty to its interests. A bulletin has been issued by the Dept. of Public Instruction, which contains in concise form much valuable information on the history, natural features, resources and industries of Minnesota, with suggestions on fire and fire prevention. The bulletin has been distributed to all of the schools of the state through the county superintendents and a copy should be preserved in every public library. The Commission has a limited number for distribution and will mail a copy upon request to any library which cannot obtain one through other sources.

**Popular books for boys and girls.** A list of books for grades 1 to 8, with annotations, compiled by Carrie E. Scott, Assistant Organizer, Indiana Public Library Commission, has been prepared as a guide to teachers and others in answering the question, "What is a good book to read?" The books are popular, including only those which children will read for pleasure, and will be useful to librarians in preparing graded lists for the use of teachers. Through the courtesy of the Indiana Library Commission, the Minnesota Commission has secured a number of these lists and copies will be sent upon application to the secretary.

**What shall we read now.** Separate lists of books for children from four to fourteen years, arranged in eight grades. Compiled by the East Orange (N. J.) Free Public Library and the children's room of Pratt Institute Free Library, Brooklyn, N. Y. Supplied by either of the above libraries at 10 cents.

**Reading lists for special holidays,** compiled by the Cleveland Public Library, and originally issued as separate pamphlets; now published as a small volume by the H. W. Wilson Co., Minneapolis, 25 cents.

Contains carefully selected references to poetry, fiction, history, biography, sketches, songs, exercises and other literature suitable for use in the observance of the following holidays: New Year's day, Lincoln's birthday, Washington's birthday, Arbor day,

Easter, Memorial day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

**Everyman's Library Catalog.** A dictionary catalog of the first 505 volumes of Everyman's library, arranged and annotated by Isabel M. Cooper and Margaret A. McVety, has been issued by E. P. Dutton & Co.

"The aim of this catalog is to give a popular annotated list, so that the range, interest and value of the library may be more generally realized." It will prove useful not only in book selection, but as a guide to readers. The purchase of some titles of standard literature in this excellent edition which may be had for 35 cents in library binding, is recommended to small libraries. The catalog may be obtained free of charge from the publishers or from the Library Commission, which has received a supply for distribution in this state.

**Free Travel Booklets.** The London and Northwestern Railway Co. has published a series of pamphlets descriptive of scenery in England, Scotland and Wales. These beautifully illustrated booklets are for free distribution through the American agent, A. G. Wand, 287 Fifth Ave., New York.

Some of the titles are: Scotland for the holidays, English lakes, A day in Shakespeare's country, Washington's and Franklin's country, Holidays in North Wales, etc.

**Commission Leaflets.** A new edition of a leaflet explaining concisely the organization and work of the Library Commission is now in press. Librarians are frequently asked for information and advice on library matters by visitors from neighboring towns. This leaflet is designed to advertise the resources and work of the Commission to all who may profit thereby and the leaflets will be distributed for this purpose to any librarian or others who can make use of them. The series of Traveling Library Leaflets gives further information regarding the resources and work of this department.

**Report Blanks.** The annual report blanks for public libraries have for several years been supplied by the Commission, and a monthly report blank has now been prepared, including the most important items given on the annual report, which should be compiled each month for presentation to the library board and for publication in the papers. From these monthly summaries the data for the annual reports can more easily be collected. Many libraries already have

such forms for their own use and a comparison of these was made in the effort to include in the printed form all items of importance, and to make a uniform blank which would meet the requirements of all public libraries. These blanks will be supplied to any library in the state upon application to the Commission.

The Daily statistics sheets compiled by the Wisconsin Free Library Commission and printed by the Democrat Printing Co., Madison, Wis., are recommended for daily use in all but the smallest libraries, and may be obtained of the Library Commission at 6 cents per sheet, postage paid.

For the smallest libraries, which are only open one or two days a week, a blank book ruled as below will give all of the information necessary.

#### Daily Circulation Statistics.

Date	Fiction	Non-Fiction	Childrens Books	Traveling Library	Total	Attendance

**Financial Records.** The importance of accurate business records in the public library cannot be over-estimated. The librarian should keep a careful account of all money received from fines or other sources, and of all expenditures from this fund for postage, express and small supplies. Separate account should also be kept of receipts and expenditures of the renting collection and these items should be included in the monthly report. An ordinary cash book will serve for this purpose.

For the use of library boards, the financial record sheet, published by the Democrat Printing Co. as Form No. 5 is recommended. This shows at a glance the amount spent for books, periodicals, salaries, etc, and not only shows the state of the library's finances at any given time, but facilitates the making of the annual report. These blanks may be obtained of the Commission at 6 cents per sheet, post-paid.

**Pamphlet Boxes.** A very serviceable pamphlet box of heavy bristol board with green cloth back with paper label for marking contents, is made by H. Schultz & Co.,

531 West Superior St., Chicago, Ill., for \$6.00 per hundred.

To accommodate small libraries which need only a few of such boxes, the Commission has obtained a quantity, and can furnish them to libraries in smaller numbers at the same rate, 6 cents each.

**Temporary Binding.** A very satisfactory binding for circulating magazines is made by removing the outside cover, lining it with red express paper and fastening it to the magazine again with success binder. As suitable paper for this purpose is not always available, the Commission has obtained a quantity, which can be furnished to libraries at 5 cents per sheet, 30x40 inches. One sheet cuts into eight covers for the ordinary sized magazine. The same material is also useful for binding pamphlets. The success binder is made by Gaylord Bros., Syracuse, N. Y., and costs 25 cents per roll, five yards long, \$2.00 per dozen rolls.

#### FOR SALE.

Century cyclopedia of names, second hand.  
Larned, History for ready reference. 7v.  
Clo. New.

Apply to Lilly M. E. Borresen, Librarian, Two Harbors, Minn.

#### TRAVELING LIBRARY NOTES.

A sign of the robust growth of traveling library work throughout the state is shown in the following statistics:

No. of active stations .....	336
Libraries in circulation (general, including rural and juvenile).....	355
Libraries—Agriculture .....	20
Libraries—Foreign .....	22
Groups—Foreign .....	128

Since December 1, twenty-four new stations have been established and eight former stations re-opened. Never has there been so great a demand for traveling libraries as at the present time. Every library has been in circulation and unfilled applications have been filed in order, waiting assignments of libraries. In January there were 64 requests for traveling libraries and 2,046 volumes were sent out. In the reference section during the same month 40 books and 477 magazine articles were loaned to individuals in response to 90 requests for material for debates and club papers. The following comparative table is of interest as showing the large increase in this work during the past year:

Jan.	Requests	Subjects	Books loaned	Articles & pamphlets
1909	21	21	18	22
1910	30	24	21	66
1911	45	48	37	121
1912	90	90	40	477
Feb.				
1909	15	16	9	55
1910	39	49	38	99
1911	37	41	25	119
1912	92	80	61	442

At present great interest is evinced in the subject of woman's suffrage. The Commission has all of the recent books on the subject as well as pamphlet material from the national headquarters.

Already many club libraries have been reserved for 1912-13, and the clubs which have not sent in their applications are urged to do so at once. On receipt of postal a list will be sent of the libraries still available. This list will offer suggestions to any club which is still undecided as to its subjects of study for the coming year. To meet the needs of Teachers' Training Departments in High Schools, which require the reading of standard children's books as part of the course, a traveling library of twenty-five volumes has been made up, including some of the best children's books in good editions with a few volumes on children's reading and story telling. The list is given below as the books should be in every public library not only for the use of children, but for teachers who

are interested in children's reading.

Adler—Moral instruction of children.

Alcott—Little women.

Brown, A. F.—In the days of giants.

Brown, John—Rab and his friends.

Bryant—How to tell stories to children.

Carroll, pseud.—Alice's adventures in Wonderland.

Colby—Literature and life in school.

Defoe—Robinson Crusoe.

Dodge—Hans Brinker.

Field—Fingerposts to children's reading.

Grimm—Household stories.

Hawthorne—Wonder book for girls and boys.

Kingsley—Heroes.

Lamb—Tales from Shakespeare.

Lyman—Story telling.

Macleod—Book of King Arthur and his noble knights.

Mother Goose.

Pyle—Men of iron.

Ruskin—King of the Golden River.

Seudder, ed—Children's book.

— George Washington.

Spyri—Heidi.

Stevenson—Child's garden of verse.

— Treasure Island.

Wiggin & Smith—Golden numbers.

#### INSTITUTION LIBRARY NOTES.

On the door of the library at the State School for dependent children at Owatonna the following legend is posted: "We the members of the State School Library League promise to do all we can to keep the library books in good condition; we will not handle any book roughly, will not mark it, turn down leaves, nor put anything into it except a book mark. If any one returns a book in bad condition, that person shall lose his library privilege for not less than two weeks, and his name shall be erased from the membership of the League."

Below this statement, the signatures of 126 boys and girls stand written to be read by all men. Some names have been erased and restored; some of the children who have signed have left the school, but we hope and believe that wherever they are they have carried a lesson in good citizenship and an interest in books and libraries.

The new children's library room at Owatonna is nearly ready for occupancy. It is a fine large room, well lighted, and furnished especially for the children, big and little. Under the guidance of Miss Gladys Chute, the librarian and principal of the school, the use of the library has greatly increased this year.

There are over 500 patients at the State Asylum at Hastings, about 10 per cent of whom continue to enjoy the traveling libraries. The most popular books during the last quarter were Toby Tyler, and The casting away of Mrs. Leeks and Mrs. Aleshine, which circulated thirteen times each. White's The mountains, Irvine's From the bottom up, Beach's The spoilers, were next in popularity. Others which were chosen frequently (for the people come in person to select their reading) were Remember the Alamo, A certain rich man, Testing of Diana Mallory, and Young ice whalers. The Book of cheerful cats was successful also.

The superintendent of the Hastings institution has stated that some of the dullest and most hopeless patients have brightened up since the traveling libraries have been coming.

At the state hospital at Rochester, the reading habit is no new thing and the books owned by the institution have been read and re-read for years. Therefore, the traveling library is welcomed as furnishing something fresh and is sure of patronage. The most popular books at Rochester were My life as

an Indian, Winston of the Prairie, Hazel of Heatherland, Dawn of a tomorrow, Masterman Ready, Green Mountain boys, The Doctor. Mrs. Wiggs was not a favorite, nor Helen's babies. There are 215 readers at Rochester who have their cards on file in the library.

At the St. Peter hospital, three groups of books are in circulation between the Detention Ward, to which every patient is first sent; the ward for the criminal insane; and the main building. Strange to say at the detention hospital the Mother of Washington and her Tire is most in demand. Among the criminal insane, there are 60 readers and they have read and re-read the books assigned to them. In the palace of the king, The making of Jane, Captain of the Gray-horse troop, Imported Americans, The air-ship Dragon Fly were called for oftener than others, and the most unpopular were Gordon's Reminiscences of the Civil War, and Burnett's Louisiana.

At Fergus Falls the books owned by the hospital are shelved in a room near the center of the administration building and the patients draw books on regular days. The traveling library has but recently been sent to this institution. Cy Whitaker's place, Higgins, Highways and byways of the Mississippi Valley, In closed territory, White man's Africa, were selected several times by these readers. "Higgins," being the story of the Minnesota Sky-pilot among the lumber camps, should be of interest in all the libraries, but as it is a small book, it is not read unless there is some one in the library to push it. There are persons at Fergus Falls who know books and who interest themselves in seeing that the patients choose the books which will do them the most good.

Arrangements have been completed for the beginning of a dictionary catalogue of the library belonging to the School for the deaf at Faribault. It is felt to be important that the pupils of this school should be made familiar with the use of such a catalogue before going to their homes.

The library of the State reformatory is in excellent condition and is doing good work as the following quotation from a letter written by one of the librarians will testify:

"Everything is progressing fine, and our catalogue is about half finished, so we will soon receive them from the printers.

We have about 179 bound magazines for circulation. The boys here will certainly

have a fine selection to pick from when the new catalogue is ready for their use. The following is the list of the bound magazines: Scribners, Outlook, Outing, American, Scientific American, Everybody's, Cosmopolitan, Colliers, Country Life, Literary Digest, National Geographic, Pan-American, Craftsman, Youth's Companion and Saturday Evening Post. We have also religious magazines, two in number, entitled "Ave Maria" and "The Mission."

The population is now 447, so it keeps us both continually on the move. Thirty of the inmates graduated from school at the last examinations, so we get out thirty additional books on our Monday issue. All who pass through the eighth grade are entitled to an extra fiction book."

M. E. C.

#### SCHOOL LIBRARY NOTES.

The League of Library Commissions at its meeting in Chicago, January 2-4, devoted one session to school libraries. The discussion, conducted by Miss Martha Wilson, of Minnesota, was based on the replies to the questionnaire sent to all Commission states and covered all points of school library work and its relationship to the Commissions and the public libraries. A committee was appointed to make further inquiry into state policies regarding school libraries and report at the annual meeting of the League at the A. L. A. conference of 1912.

The joint library committee of the M. E. A. and M. L. A. held an informal meeting in St. Paul January 29th, five members being present. Recommendations were framed looking toward more definite instruction to teachers in the Normal schools and the county summer schools in the use of books and libraries and knowledge of the best children's books.

Library interests have been presented at a number of meetings by the Supervisor of school libraries. A county teachers' meeting was attended in Waseca, November 18th, and the rural school library question presented at the morning session. In the afternoon a board meeting at the Waseca library association was held. Cannon Falls was visited on Dec. 8th to inspect the school library and to talk over plans for a school and town library. The club women of the town met at the school house in the afternoon and methods of raising money, book selection and organization were discussed. At a Farmers'

Institute at Elk River on Dec. 9th a talk was given on books for rural communities and how to get them. The Dodge county short course at Kasson, January 22nd, gave opportunity for talking to a large number of teachers about the selection of books for their school libraries and in the same week this topic was discussed with the teachers of Watonwan county at St. James. At the district educational meeting at Moorhead, February 1-2, a talk was made in the school officers' section on the rural school library. Upon request of the extension division of the Dept. of Agriculture, a talk was given at the woman's meeting of the Farmers' Institute held at Hastings, February 6th, on Books for the country home, school and club. This meeting was interesting as being a successful attempt to get the town and country women together. The school at Hastings is an associated school attended by boys and girls of high school age from the surrounding country and the school library in charge of an efficient librarian serves as a public library for the town and community. At Hastings the students in the Teachers' Training Department of the High school were met and a talk was given them on the rural school library and children's books they should know.

The district educational meeting at Mankato was held February 16-17. A very interesting exhibit of aids for school libraries was arranged by Miss Farr of the Normal School Library, and was visited by a large number of county superintendents and teachers. Children's reading was discussed in the Rural School Section by Miss Farr of the Normal School Library, Miss Carr of the Mankato Public Library and Miss Wilson. At the district meeting in Montevideo, February 23-24, a number of aids to teachers were shown and a talk given in the general session on the school library.

Lists have been distributed at the meetings, particularly the Teachers' assistant, list of books for grades 1-4 and set of the \$10 Suggestive orders for rural schools. Also typewritten lists of Stories for reading aloud, Books about children's reading and Suggestions on the rural school library for use in teachers' training departments. In all places where school meetings were held the public library has also been visited and conferences held with members of the library board. At the district meeting in Bemidji, February 9-10, Miss Baldwin of the Library

Commission addressed the teachers, and also at Cannon Falls on February 24th. A further conference was held with the club women, when it was reported that \$100 had been raised by subscription to provide books for general reading, and the proceeds of a school entertainment will furnish an equal amount for purchase of children's books. A joint library committee has been appointed from the teachers and club women to select the books. The library will be re-organized by the Library Commission and opened to the public the first of April.

Rural school teachers have been reached through the teachers of the training department in the high schools. Miss Fernald of the Rochester Public Library has given a number of talks to the class there on book selection and the use of the school library and the public library. Miss Ackerman of the Cannon Falls High School is including work on the rural school library in her course and requires the class to read the books in the Teachers' traveling library. Miss Hattie Marvin, of the Zumbrota Public Library, will speak to the rural teachers at a meeting in Zumbrota March 9th. M. W.

#### DAVID L. KINGSBURY.

In the death, on January 24, of Mr. Kingsbury, assistant librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society during the last eighteen years, this society and the librarians of this state lose one of their most honored and beloved members. Soon after the work of the Historical Library was relinquished by John Fletcher Williams, after his twenty-six years of service, from 1867 to 1893, Mr. Kingsbury succeeded him. For the next twelve years in the old capitol and six years since the removal to the new capitol, he was the efficient assistant of readers consulting that library. His extensive personal recollections of the history of Minnesota, and especially of its civil war records, were exceedingly useful, readily supplying the information sought.

David Lansing Kingsbury was born in Marshall, Mich., December 28, 1842. His father died when he was eight years old, and he lived afterward in the family of his aunt, and came with them to Monticello, Minn., in 1856. At the age of nineteen years he enlisted as a private in the Eighth Minnesota regiment. In 1864 he was promoted to be first sergeant of his company; and in July, 1865, he was mustered out as second lieutenant.

After the war he settled in St. Paul, and engaged in the hardware business from 1873 to 1886. He was greatly interested in military matters, and upon the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic was one of its early members. He was also a member of the Minnesota commandery of the Loyal Legion of the United States, and was its recorder twelve years, since 1898.

Mr. Kingsbury was a man of strongly marked personal character, greatly attached to his friends, generous, sympathetic, and ardently devoted to whatever work he undertook. In last May and June he made a visit to his sister in Pasadena, Cal., and on the same trip attended meetings of the American Library Association. After his return he was ill at home several weeks, but rallied and was again at his accustomed duties in the Historical Library nearly four months, until his final illness of only about two weeks.

W. U.

#### PERSONAL.

Miss Jessie McKenzie, who has been librarian of the Moorhead Normal since 1907, has resigned her position to become librarian at Winnetka, Ill., a suburb of Chicago.

Miss Honora MacLachlan, librarian of the Glenwood public library has accepted a position as assistant in the Franklin Ave. Branch, Minneapolis. Mr. O. K. Omilie, formerly superintendent of schools at Glenwood, has been appointed to succeed Miss MacLachlan.

Miss Carrie Swenson has been elected librarian at Ortonville to succeed Mrs. Harold Knight, who has removed from the city.

Miss Lydia Sasse was elected librarian at Sleepy Eye, upon the marriage of Miss Florence Dovre to Mr. Jensen.

Miss Maud Ressler has succeeded Mrs. W. T. Stone as librarian at Park Rapids.

Mrs. George Hoffman has been elected librarian at Worthington to succeed Mrs. E. L. McIntosh, who expects to make her future home in Idaho.

#### NEWS OF MINNESOTA LIBRARIES.

(Items of news for this column are solicited from all libraries in the state. They should be sent to the Secretary of the Commission by the 15th of the month preceding each issue of the bulletin, which appears quarterly in March, June, September and December.)

**Albert Lea.** Since the first of January the library has been open Sunday afternoons in charge of members of the library board. A very large attendance has proved that this

service was very much appreciated. Arrangements have now been made to open the library every week-day from 2 to 9 p. m., and to meet this additional expense an appropriation of \$300 has been made by the council, and it is expected that the library fund for the coming year will be increased according to a budget prepared by the library board. A dictionary card catalog will be begun in the near future under the direction of the Library Commission.

A home talent entertainment in January added more than \$100 to the library fund, and a part of this fund has been used to furnish the writing and study room in an attractive manner.

**Annandale.** The Annandale Improvement club, has for many years maintained a library for which the village provides a room in the village hall, but whose use is limited to members of the club upon payment of a membership fee of \$1.00. The club recently held a meeting to discuss the possibility of turning it over to the village and making it a free library, but a majority of the members voted against it.

**Anoka.** Duplicate copies of the most popular new fiction are now rented at 5 cents per week.

**Benson.** The library has been open for an hour every Saturday afternoon during the winter to accommodate the farmers living near town, quite a number of whom have been using the library.

**Breckenridge.** A library association has been organized for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a free library.

**Chatfield.** About 250 books have recently been added to the library, gifts from former residents. New shelving has been provided to accommodate them. The patronage is constantly increasing, the month of January surpassing all previous records with a circulation of 1,187. Of the 600 borrowers, about 250 are from the country. The rest room feature, no doubt, accounts for this, and the success of the year's work in Chatfield shows the possibility of making the library a social center for town and country.

**Chisholm.** Contract for the new Carnegie building has been let, and work will begin as early as possible in the spring. The building will cost \$15,000 exclusive of plumbing, heating and furniture. The city council has made a liberal appropriation to

complete the building and equip it ready for use.

**Cloquet.** The library has issued a list of the books on agriculture which are available. This has been mailed to a number of farmers in the vicinity. Books are loaned to residents of the county upon payment of five cents per book.

**Coleraine.** The young people of the village gave a concert early in the winter for the benefit of the Carnegie library. The proceeds were spent for new books.

Beginning March 1, the library will be open on Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5:30, also on legal holidays, and for a short time on Saturday forenoon. Stationery will be provided for the use of Sunday visitors and every effort will be made to attract the miners and laboring men.

**Crookston.** The library has been open Sunday afternoons during the winter, in charge of members of the Current Events club, who volunteered their services.

The Carnegie Library Literary Society has inaugurated a campaign to add 1,000 books to the library. Letters soliciting donations have been distributed by the Boy Scouts who will also call for books.

**Detroit.** An offer of \$10,000 from Andrew Carnegie has been received, and the council has introduced a resolution to levy the necessary annual tax of \$1,000 for its support. An excellent site for the library building was donated to the city a year ago by Mr. E. G. Holmes.

**Dodge Center.** The public library loaned 2,912 books during the past year, nearly double the number loaned in 1910.

**Duluth.** Work on the branch library building in West Duluth has been begun and the contract calls for its completion May 1st. The room in the Neighborhood House now occupied by the West End Branch is proving entirely inadequate for the increased patronage and it is possible a movement will soon be started to secure a suitable branch for this locality.

**Elbow Lake.** The library of the Book Club is now located in the court house, and is open for an hour every Saturday afternoon in charge of members of the club.

**Fairmont.** The library was open Sunday afternoons during the winter, but patronage was not sufficient to warrant a continuance of the plan.

The librarian entertained the Travel Class on March 5, when brief reviews of popular new books were given, and the secretary of the Commission gave a talk on The use of the library.

**Hibbing.** Upon presentation of an itemized budget showing the necessary expenses of the library for the coming year, the council added \$1,500 to the appropriation, making a total of \$4,500.

**Howard Lake.** Several of the best children's magazines have been subscribed for and the library will be open as a reading room on Saturday afternoon and evening.

**International Falls.** The International Falls public library association held their annual meeting on Saturday evening, Feb. 17, at which time the reports of the librarian, treasurer, and the standing committees were presented.

The report of the librarian showed that there were 908 volumes on the shelves as the result of the year's campaign for books. Of these, 405 were gifts. In addition to gifts of books from citizens and friends, this library has received liberal treatment from the city council which has enabled the board to equip a comfortable room and provide a librarian who opens the library every day in the week, except Monday, from 2 to 6, and from 7 to 9 P. M. The citizens of the town responded promptly and generously during the year to every call made upon them, especially by patronizing the plays and other entertainments undertaken by the board to raise money.

During the six months in which regular statistics have been kept of the circulation of books, 9,153 volumes have been given out, the largest per cent of which were children's books. There are over 350 borrowers at present, and there is every prospect that the use of the library will increase rapidly.

Miss Carey of the library commission was present at the meeting and congratulated the board and librarian upon their remarkable year's work. The desirability of securing the assistance of Andrew Carnegie in getting a library building was thoroughly canvassed, but no action was taken with regard to the matter. Mr. Nelson of the city council expressed the cordial sympathy of that body with the library movement and assured the board that they would co-operate with them substantially in the course of a few months.

**Jackson.** The Woman's Club has presented a fine bust of Longfellow to the library. This was made the occasion of a public reception, when the president of the club made the presentation speech, and Supt. J. B. Arp responded on behalf of the library board. Supt. E. L. Dills, of the city schools gave an excellent talk on the relation of the library and the schools, and the High School chorus furnished music.

The Commission collection of Venice sketches was loaned to the library at the same time.

**Janesville.** The Carnegie building has been completed, and a campaign to raise money for furniture is now under way.

**Litchfield.** The story-hour was inaugurated at the library February 17th, when Miss Mary Stewart told stories to 55 delighted children from the first and second grades. The following week the children of the third and fourth grades were invited, and later two other teachers will tell Arthurian and Bible stories.

New shelving has been added to the children's room.

Traveling libraries have been placed in twelve rural schools of the county.

The loan collection of American landscape painters visited Litchfield in February.

**Little Falls.** A musical recital late in November netted about \$60 for the furnishing of the library basement.

**Mankato.** Last spring the fee for non-residents was abolished, making the library free to any one in the county. The librarian reports a growing use of the library by people in the country and near-by towns, due in large measure to the interest taken by some teachers in rural schools.

The exhibit of British historical pictures loaned by the Commission proved especially interesting to the older school children.

**Mapleton.** New electric light fixtures complete the equipment of the Carnegie building, which is now the best lighted structure in the village. A large purchase of new books made the January circulation the largest in the history of the library.

**Marshall.** The exhibit of American landscape painters loaned by the Commission in January attracted a good many visitors, in spite of the fact that the city heating plant proved insufficient to cope with the unusually severe weather.

**Minneapolis.** The circulation of the Minneapolis public library in 1911 passed the million mark, reaching a total of 1,051,512.

The new Seven Corners Branch was opened January 15. The building is of English half-timbered construction, costing \$30,000.

The first branch library to be located in a public school, was opened February 6th in the Seward school. The library room is in the basement, and has a separate entrance. About 1,500 books have been placed on the shelves, in addition to the usual supply of newspapers and magazines. Miss Lura Hutchinson, who attended the Library Summer School in 1911, is in charge. The opening was celebrated by a gathering in the school auditorium of about 400 parents and interested friends. Among the speakers were the Supt. of schools, President of the Board of Education, Principal of the school and Miss Countryman. During the first three weeks, an average of 270 books were drawn daily of which 50 were taken by parents. The room has become so crowded that another room is now being equipped for a reading-room.

**Montevideo.** The library has received a gift of a complete set of *The Nation* from L. R. Moyer, president of the library board.

**Monticello.** The annual benefit for the library on February 22nd was a recital given by St. Cloud talent.

**Moorhead.** The story-hour undertaken by the librarian with the assistance of the teachers has been very successful.

A neat little card, about  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$  inches explaining briefly the resources and use of the library is proving a profitable means of advertising.

**North Mankato.** A gift of an encyclopedia in 15 volumes and a number of other books has been received from John C. Noe of Mankato.

A musical and literary entertainment was given for the benefit of the library on February 22.

**Northfield.** The D. A. R. chapter has presented a handsome Grandfather clock to the library.

**Northome.** Miss Carey, the organizer of the Commission, spent a day in Northome on her return from International Falls and classified the books in the public library. In the evening she met the library board for a discussion of their problems.

The library board has made arrangements with the Tenstrike Minstrel Co. for an entertainment early in March.

**Owatonna.** At the annual meeting of the board in December, Miss Martha Chapin, who has been in charge of the library since the resignation of Miss Plumb last May, was unanimously elected librarian, with Miss Carol Clarkson and Miss Irene Reynolds as first and second assistants.

The story-hour for the season has consisted of a course of twenty stories of the Siege of Troy. These have been followed with interest, and have had a marked effect on the children's reading.

The picture and clipping collection is growing and proving very useful. A "shut-in" has rendered valuable assistance in clipping, sorting and mounting pictures in her home.

**Paynesville.** The public library was almost entirely destroyed by fire, but fortunately the loss was well covered by insurance.

**Red Wing.** The usual Christmas story-hour for the younger children was held with an attendance of about 100. The work at the West End branch shows an increase in patronage and interest. A lecture on the Philippines, illustrated with stereopticon views was given by Mr. Reckner, and Dr. Sweeney gave an interesting talk on early days in Red Wing, illustrated by several pictures.

**Renville.** The opening of the school library to the public has proved very successful. The movement was started when the Publicity Club appointed a committee of five, who submitted a plan whereby the school library could be utilized and the whole kept under one management. Over \$400 was subscribed, and a suitable room was put in order in the school building. The books in the school library with about 100 books purchased for general reading, and the traveling library of 50 volumes with 6 Norwegian books and 25 German books made a total of 1,229 books available. The library has been open to the general public on Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoon, while other afternoons are assigned to pupils of the different grades. 650 cards have been issued, and the record of circulation is most gratifying: September (2 weeks) 256, October 379, November 322, December 230, January 457.

**Rice.** A valentine social was given for the benefit of the Public Library and Improvement Club.

**Robbinsdale.** The Ladies' Library Club gave a Christmas party for the benefit of the library. A short program of music and speeches was given, and about 30 books, a subscription to Youth's Companion and one other magazine, a clock and \$7.50 in cash were donated. The library was removed last August to a better location, which incurred more expense. The village council pays the rent of the room which is open every evening except Sunday, in charge of Miss Irma Nash.

**Rochester.** At the January meeting, the county commissioners appropriated \$300 to the Rochester public library on condition that its privileges be extended to all parts of the county. This action was taken in response to a petition signed by many country people who wished to have access to the excellent collection of over 12,000 books which has been so carefully built up. Arrangements have already been made to locate 10 stations in outlying towns, and the librarian is advertising the library throughout the county, especially among the rural school teachers.

**Royalton.** The secretary of the Commission met with the Woman's Study Club in December to discuss plans for organizing a public library. The organization of an association was recommended to co-operate with the school library, when it was found that the school authorities would support the movement. A committee of the club appointed to solicit memberships in the association have met with much encouragement, and it is expected that an organization will be perfected at an early date.

**St. Cloud.** The Sunshine Society has been given the use of a room for storage and distribution purposes.

At the January meeting of the board, it was decided to purchase books in German and Swedish, and a regular assistant was elected.

**St. James.** The popularity of the library which was opened the last of November has surpassed the expectations of its most sanguine advocates. The circulation has steadily increased, with a total of about 2,000 books loaned during the first three months. About 400 borrowers cards have been issued and over 900 people visited the rooms during three weeks in February.

The proceeds of an entertainment, the County fair, added \$120 to the book fund.

In view of the great interest shown, the question of levying a one-mill tax will be submitted to the people at the spring election, so that the library may be put on a permanent financial basis without further delay.

**St. Paul.** The question of a library building for St. Paul has been discussed at recent meetings of the Civic League, the City club and various other organizations, and James J. Hill has finally solved the problem by offering to build, equip and maintain a reference library to be a unit in the general plan for a building. The Association of Commerce has taken up the work, and will conduct a whirlwind campaign the second week in March to raise \$125,000 for purchase of the entire block facing Rice Park and across from the post-office. The city will issue bonds for completing the building, but this will not add to the city debt, as the property now used as a library building, will pay the interest and retire the bonds in thirty years.

**St. Peter.** Instead of giving the usual entertainment for the library this year, the library board is collecting a carload of old paper to raise money for the book fund.

**Shakopee.** A unique method of raising money taken up by the Library Association is the forming of a calendar chain. The president of the association represented the year, and paid \$1. Twelve people were appointed as months, to pay 50 cents each. Each month was to find four people to represent weeks, upon payment of 25 cents each, and to find seven people to act as days and pay 10 cents each. Each day to find 24 hours, at 5 cents each. It is evident that a considerable sum of money could be raised in this way, without much effort on the part of any one person.

**Two Harbors.** The report of the extension work in Lake Co. presented to the county commissioners by Miss Borresen in January was so satisfactory that the commissioners unanimously voted \$500 for the coming year.

A special loan of some standard works on American history was obtained for a month from the University Library, as these books had been referred to in a Socialist lecture.

A renting collection has been started, each member of the board and the librarian donating \$1.09 for the first purchase of books.

A valuable gift of books from Mrs. H. S. Bryan includes among others a set of the Century dictionary, with atlas and cyclopedia of names in 12 volumes, Larned's History for ready reference in 7 volumes and a fine large globe.

The picture, Murillo's "Children with the shell" which received the largest number of votes at the library art exhibit last winter, has been hung in the children's room.

**Virginia.** The transfer of the library property to the railroad company has been completed, and the council has unanimously voted to purchase the site across from the school house. \$12,000 was received from the old building, \$12,500 additional from Mr. Carnegie, and the council has appropriated \$15,000, so that a total of \$39,500 will be available for the new building. Jerome Jackson of Minneapolis, architect of the new Walker branch, has been chosen as architect, and the plans will be completed at once, so that work may begin as soon as possible.

The circulation of books for 1911 amounted to 40,619, a gain of 46 per cent over the previous year.

**Wabasha.** The advantages of a free library over the subscription organization are strongly evidenced in the report of the Wabasha library for the year 1911, as compared with the previous year. The report for 1910, gave 100 borrowers and a circulation of 60, while in the eight months from May 1st, 1911 to Jan. 1, 1912, after the library was made free, there were 459 borrowers registered, and a total of 4,447 volumes loaned, thirty per cent of which were children's books. The librarian, Miss Perrie Jones, has conducted a story-hour regularly throughout the winter.

**Wadena.** The library which has been closed for some time has recently been reopened, the members of the Junior class of the High School volunteering their services. Miss Baldwin, of the Commission, stopped at Wadena early in February to confer with members of the executive committee and others as to ways and means. The suggestion to have a series of library teas was adopted immediately, and has been carried on with great success.

**Wayzata.** At the January meeting of the county commissioners an appropriation of \$500 was made to the Wayzata library, on condition that its privileges shall be extended to all residents of the northern part of the county.

**White Bear.** An appropriation of \$300 has been made to the White Bear library by the Ramsey county commissioners on consideration of the extension of its use to residents in that section of the county.

**Wells.** The proceeds of tag day, conducted by the Current Events club, amounted to \$116, one-half of which was turned over to the board for current expenses, the remainder to be spent for books.

**Windom.** The village council has appropriated \$50 to purchase books for the public library.

**Winnebago.** Tag day for the library was held in December. An acceptable gift of

two book-cases has been received from Mrs. J. F. Damon.

The Commercial club is considering the question of a Carnegie library.

**Worthington.** The Tourist club has presented to the library a copy of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last supper." On the afternoon of December 28th, the picture was explained to pupils of the Eighth grade and High School by Mrs. J. C. Clark, and on the following afternoon to children of the other grades by Mrs. Frank Manson.

**Zumbrota.** New shelving has been built to accommodate the increasing number of books. Recent gifts of magazines have added valuable reference material.